

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: NAC CONSULTATION 24 APRIL: COMMENTS ON CTB

1. VIBE (NORWAY) ASKED ABOUT THE PROSPECTS FOR A COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN (CTB) PRIOR TO THE UNSSOD. HE ALSO ASKED WHETHER THERE WAS ANY RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SALT II AND A CTB.

2. AMBASSADOR WARNKE STATED THAT THE PROSPECTS FOR A CTB BY THE TIME OF THE SSOD WERE "NON EXISTENT". NEVERTHELESS, THE CTB NEGOTIATIONS WERE PROCEEDING SATISFACTORILY AND WOULD RESUME MAY 4. IN THESE NEGOTIATIONS, MAJOR PROBLEMS WERE NOT ONES OF PRINCIPLE, BUT ONES OF DETAIL CONCERNING VERIFICATION. AT PRESENT, WE CAN TELESEISMICALLY DETECT EXPLOSIONS AS LOW AS A FEW KTS, ALTHOUGH IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO MASK LARGER EXPLOSIONS. THUS, WE BELIEVE IT

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NECESSARY TO SUPPLEMENT NTM WITH SOME NUMBER OF SEISMIC INSTALLATIONS ON SOVIET TERRITORY. THE SOVIETS HAVE ACCEPTED THIS CONCEPT IN PRINCIPLE, BUT ARE BALKING AT THE DEGREE OF SPECIFICITY ABOUT EQUIPMENT, MEASURES TO AUTHENTICATE THE DATA RECORDED, AND THE NUMBER AND SELECTION OF SITES. AS A RESULT, IT SEEMS THAT A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS IS A MATTER OF MONTHS RATHER THAN

WEEKS.

3. IN RESPONSE TO VIBE'S SECOND QUESTION, WARNKE NOTED THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE NEVER MADE ANY CONNECTION BETWEEN SALT AND CTB. THERE HAS BEEN NO REFERENCE TO CTB IN THE SALT DISCUSSIONS AND NONE TO SALT DURING THE CTB NEGOTIATIONS. SALT AND CTB COMPLEMENT EACH OTHER, BUT NEITHER IS A NECESSARY PRE-CONDITION FOR THE OTHER.

4. FOLLOWING UP ON THE CTB ISSUE, SVART (DENMARK) ASKED WHETHER THE SOVIETS HAD ASSURED THE US ACCESS TO SEISMIC MONITORING SITES IN THE USSR.

5. WARNKE NOTED THIS WAS UNDER NEGOTIATION. THE SOVIETS HAVE PROPOSED THAT THE SITES BE UNDER SOVIET CONTROL. WE HAVE INSISTED THAT US/UK PERSONNEL MUST BE PRESENT FOR EQUIPMENT INSTALLATION AND REPAIR. HOWEVER, OUR EXPERTS ARE CONFIDENT THAT APPROPRIATE AUTHENTICATION DEVICES COULD DETECT ANY TAMPERING WITH INSTALLED EQUIPMENT OR THE DATA TRANSMITTED.

6. CATALANO (ITALY) ASKED IF THE PRESENT STATE OF CTB NEGOTIATIONS MEANT THAT THE PNE ISSUE HAD BEEN RESOLVED.

7. WARNKE SAID THAT THE PNE ISSUE HAD NOT PROVED TO BE AS MUCH OF A PROBLEM AS ORIGINALLY ANTICIPATED. IN NOVEMBER,
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1977 THE SOVIETS AGREED TO A PNE MORATORIUM CO-EXTENSIVE WITH A CTB, AND THEY CONFIRMED THIS IN THE LAST ROUND. A MORATORIUM WOULD ALSO HAVE TO BE CO-EXTENSIVE WITH ANY EXTENSION OF THE CTB, UNLESS SPECIFIC PNE EXEMPTIONS WERE AGREED.BENNETT

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